

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-21 and 23-27 are being prosecuted in this application. Claims 10 and 22 have been withdrawn subject to Applicant's right to file a divisional application or obtain additional species before termination of proceedings in this Application.

I. REPLY TO REJECTION FOR DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-9, 11-21 and 23-27 were rejected for nonstatutory obvious-type double patenting as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836 in view of Harris, U.S. Pat. No. 5,067,928.

Paragraph 0001 of the specification has been amended to recite that this is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 10/411,561, filed April 10, 2003, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836.

Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836 is not prior art, because it claims the benefit of U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836 under 35 U.S.C. 120 for all that is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836 and because it was at all times commonly owned by the assignee herein, as the assignment records in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office show and as presented in the accompanying Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.130.

According to MPEP 804.03, a non-statutory obviousness rejection should only be made where the application is not commonly owned or where the term would be different.

Submitted herewith is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.130 to establish common ownership between U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836 and the present application.

Due to the effect of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2), the term of any patent granted hereunder would already be co-extensive with U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836, i.e., twenty years from April 10, 2003. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that either this ground of rejection be withdrawn or the Examiner is respectfully called upon to comment as why such a rejection should be made in view of term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2) and in view of the claim for benefit of the earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 in this application, which determines the term of both this application and U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836.

## II. REPLY TO THE NEW GROUND OF REJECTION

Claims 1-9, 12-21 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al (US 6,318,537 B1) in view of Harris (US 5,067,928) and further in view of Sasadi, U.S. Pat. No. 4,125,195.

An Information Disclosure Statement has been submitted with this Request for Continued Examination, citing Jones, U.S. Pat. No. 6,637,576, which is a continuation-in-part of Jones, U.S. Pat. No. 6,318,537, cited in the current rejection.

It is further noted that Jones et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836 was allowed by the same two Examiners, after also examining U.S. Pat. No. 6,637,576, which is an equivalent to Jones, No. 6,318,537, applied in this application by rejection of claims 1 and 18 herein. It is thus believed that the concepts in U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836 are patentable over Jones.

Claim 18 recites this concept from U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836:

"comparing amounts of coins dispensed from the machine for a respective user with amounts of coins loaded into the machine by said respective user."

Claim 18 adds the following subject matter to the subject matter of U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836:

wherein the coins are dispensed by denomination from a plurality of dispensing hoppers;

wherein the coins are directed to a plurality of bulk coin storage receptacles according to denomination; and

transferring coins from said bulk coin storage receptacles by denomination to corresponding ones of said dispensing hoppers for dispensing to the user.

This two-tier method involving bulk coin storage receptacles and dispensing hoppers is not seen in Jones, and should be allowable as an improvement when combined with the subject matter of the claims in U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836, which is also not found in Jones et al.

Claim 18 should be patentable over Jones and other art cited herein for the recitation of "comparing amounts of coins dispensed from the machine for a respective user with amounts of coins loaded into the machine by said respective user." as claims similar to this have already been allowed and issued in U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836.

The rejection adds Harris and Sasadi in combination with Jones concerning the two-tier handling of denominations for receiving and dispensing batches of coins but does not address

accounting for the receiving and dispensing on a per user basis and generally allowing users to control the machine instead an operator as in Jones.

Claim 26 expresses the concept as follows:

"comparing the amount of coinage received in the second operating cycle with the amount of coinage dispensed in the first operating cycle to determine a net amount of coinage associated with the user account number."

Jones says only at col. 18, line 65 that "The coin processing module 250 initially counts the coins to determine the aggregate value of the coins deposited by an individual user for purposes of that particular transaction. Further, the coin processing module 250 can keep track of the coin totals (value, number of coins, etc.) over a given time interval for quality control purposes.

Claim 18 is patentable over Jones and other art cited herein for the recitation of "comparing amounts of coins dispensed from the machine for a respective user with amounts of coins loaded into the machine by said respective user." as claims similar to this have already been allowed and issued in U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836.

The Office action commented that Sasadi discloses a system of dispensing outlets that are moved automatically by solenoid valves and mechanical linkages.

The Office action goes on to state that it would have been obvious to combine Jones with Sasadi to accommodate varying configurations or coin compartments. This is more directed to claim 1 than claims 18 and 26.

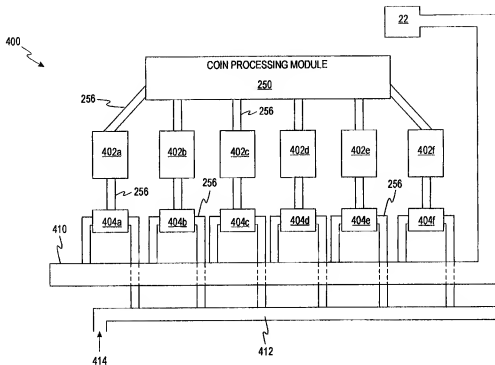
Claim 1 calls for "[a] coin recycling machine for receiving coins, for sorting coins into a plurality of denominations and for automatically dispensing coins as a plurality of sorted denominations to an individual receptacle having compartments for receiving and holding respective denominations."

None of the cited prior art, not Jones, not Harris and not Sasadi shows "a mechanism for dispensing coins to "an individual receptacle having compartments for receiving and holding respective denominations."

The spouts in Sasadi hang down from a bin 10 of flowable material for feeding flowable material into a railroad car 20. There is no showing that the material is sorted and directed to multiple compartments corresponding to different materials or different denominations in a single rail car. Sasadi also lacks the intermediate compartments or hoppers, the "dispensing hoppers" and the "bulk coin receptacles" recited in claim 1, which allow receiving and dispensing batches of sorted material concurrently.

In reading claim 1 on Jones in paragraph 3 of the Office action, the Examiner refers to the embodiment of Fig. 20 which is described in column 18.

(See next page)



**FIG. 20**

In Fig. 20 above, elements 402 are hoppers and elements 404 are counters. There are not bulk coin storage receptacles, dispensing hoppers AND transfer mechanisms as recited in claim 1. Jones, Fig. 20 is similar to U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,836 in showing one tier of receptacles for both receiving and dispensing.

But, the Examiner states that Harris would provide a type of bulk storage receptacle with a skimmer. Harris, however, does not explain how coins are sorted into multiple denominations. Harris, Fig. 5 shows only a single chute for depositing coins and does not discuss how multiple denominations would be handled. The Harris disclosure is a one-denomination disclosure, which does not discuss how the elevator unit would interface with a sorter or with multiple

dispensing hopper dispensing to an individual receptacle having compartments for receiving and holding respective denominations.

Thus, while Harris might show one sub-assembly comparable to bulk storage receptacle for one denomination, it hardly suggests how to handle multiple denominations in the confined space of a vending machine.

Thus, the Office action is focused on finding mechanical components of the present claimed invention in the prior art, but there is no suggestion of the combination to combine all of the parts necessary to provide a convenient cash recycling machine for bank and retail employees managing cash drawers. This motivation or goal is missing in the references.

Applicants' motivation is much greater than simply lessening the need to re-fill a coin dispensing hopper as stated in the present Office action. Applicants are providing a fully operational machine for handling a plurality of cash drawers from a plurality of employees starting, ending and during their work shifts.

The Examiner previously recognized that Jones et al. has only a first set receptacles 402a-402f in Fig. 20 for both receiving and dispensing the sorted denominations. But, the Office action goes on to assume that the teaching of Harris of an elevator type coin storage device could be incorporated into Jones.

1. It is noted that Harris shows what appears to be a vending machine and shows only "one" elevator device for the machines. Thus, there is no concept of sorting coins into

multiple elevator devices in Harris or dispensing into a multiple compartment receptacle.

2. There is no need for the elevator devices in Jones because the casino cash handling machine is a back room machine of very large size, so the coin receptacles can be made quite large. Also, this machine is operated by a trained technician or operator, and does not serve a plurality of customers for the cash.

3. Harris only dispenses the coins into a coin tray 62 similar to coin tray 22 in the ATM embodiment in Jones. Neither Jones or Harris is looking to fill a cash drawer.

4. While Petri is cited for showing the cash drawer in Fig. 3, in Petri the single tier of coin receptacles are not elevator-type receptacles and must be flipped by hand to dispense coins to the cash drawer.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "the controller also being electrically connected to the dispensing hoppers for automatically dispensing coins without manual manipulation of the bulk storage coin receptacles."

In none of these machines is "a coin recycling machine for receiving coins, for sorting coins into a plurality of denominations and for automatically dispensing coins as a plurality of sorted denominations to an individual receptacle having compartments for receiving and holding respective denominations," as recited in amended claim 1.

Even in combination, the accumulated art does not suggest a machine for both automatically accepting and dispensing sorted coinage to a user while reconciling deposits and withdrawals for that user. It is not assumed in these



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machines that the persons withdrawing sums are the same persons depositing the cash.

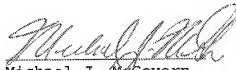
The remaining claims 2-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19-21, 23-25 and 27 all depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 18 and 26, are seen as allowable for at least the same reasons.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the Amendment and Remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. After the Amendment, claims 1-9, 12-21 and 23-27 are still pending, and a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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